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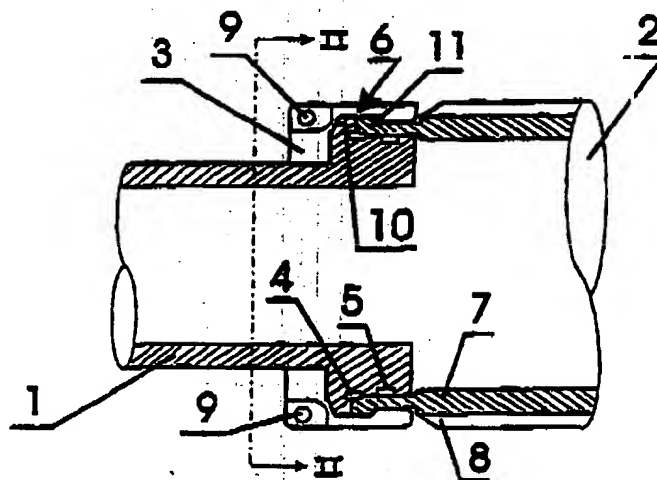
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<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP99/04085 (22) International Filing Date: 28 June 1999 (28.06.99) (30) Priority Data: 98202183.4 29 June 1998 (29.06.98) EP (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): SINVACO N.V. [BE/BE]; Karreweg 20, B-9870 Zulte (BE). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): CNOCKAERT, Dirk [BE/BE]; Izegemstraat 80, B-9800 Deinze (BE). DE BOSSCHER, Wilmer [BE/BE]; Noordhoutstraat 22, B-9031 Drongen (BE). LOOTENS, Erwin [BE/BE]; Mariakerksteenweg 269, B-9031 Drongen (BE). VERHEYEN, Pascal [BE/BE]; Provinciebaan 102, B-9890 Gavere (BE). (74) Agents: BIRD, William et al.; Bird Göen & Co., Termestraat 1, B-3020 Winksele (BE).</p>	<p>(81) Designated States: CA, CN, JP, KR, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</p>	

(54) Title: VACUUM TIGHT COUPLING FOR TUBE SECTIONS



(57) Abstract

The invention relates to a vacuum tight coupling for the end portions (1, 2) of two tubular sections, the size of the inner space of a first end portion (1) being smaller than that of the second end portion (2). The second end portion, with its flange extremity (11) can axially slide over the first end portion against an abutment ring (10) on said first end portion. The coupling includes at least one sealing ring (4, 5) between said end portions and a clamping ring (3) with a substantially cylindrical outer surface. The ring (3) is composed of two substantially equal halves (12, 13) with each a U-shaped cross section with an inwardly oriented recess (6), said recess enclosing said flange and said abutment against each other. The two ring halves are fixed to each other at their extremities (15, 16) and the fixing means comprises in at least one place bolting means (9).